

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended, as shown above

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the following arguments is respectfully requested.

In Section 1 of the April 2, 2004 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 3, 9-11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,889,816 to *Agrawal et al.* (hereafter, "*Agrawal*"). In addition, in Section 4 of the April 2, 2004 Final Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the *Agrawal* reference discloses all of the limitations recited in Claim 1, including that "the first state machine is capable of communicating with a second state machine ... by storing at least one event in a queue associated with said second state machine." The Examiner further asserted that the Applicant's arguments submitted in Applicant's previous response filed on December 31, 2003 are more detailed than the claims. In response, the Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 to include more detailed language supporting Applicant's previous arguments. Thus, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 9-11 and 17.

The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Claim 1, which now contains following unique and novel limitations:

1. For use in a base station of a wireless network, a call control processor comprising:

a first state machine capable of performing a call processing task, said first state machine comprising a queue capable of storing a plurality of events associated with said call processing task, each of said plurality of events operable to cause said first state machine to perform a selected action, wherein said first state machine is capable of communicating with a second state machine of said call control processor by storing at least one event directly into a queue associated with said second state machine. (emphasis added).

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the above-emphasized limitations are not disclosed, suggested, or even hinted at in the *Agrawal* reference.

As the Applicant argued in the previous response filed on December 31, 2003, one of the problems with prior art state machines in call processors was that call processing state machines did not communicate directly with each other. Rather, conventional call processing state machines communicated indirectly with each other through the operating system. To overcome this problem, the present invention discloses state machines that communicate directly with the internal queues of other state machines, thereby bypassing the operating system state machines. The Applicant respectfully asserts that, in *Agrawal*, the state machines 94 illustrated in Figure 6 and described at column 8, lines 11-32, actually communicate indirectly through main thread 96 (i.e., the operating system thread) and not directly with each other. The circuit block diagram in Figure 6 of the *Agrawal* reference clearly shows that data is written into and read from the queues 98 of each finite state machine (FSM) 94 only by the FSM 94 itself or by main thread 96. This is reinforced by the description at column 8, lines 11-32 of the *Agrawal* reference.

In sum, Claim 1 of the present application contains unique and novel limitations that are not disclosed, suggested, or even hinted at in the *Agrawal* reference. To the contrary, the *Agrawal* reference teaches the opposite of what is recited in Claim 1. This being the case, Claim 1 is patentable over the *Agrawal* reference.

In Section 2 of the April 2, 2004 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6-8, 14-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Agrawal* reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,831 to *Gulliford et al.* (hereafter, "*Gulliford*"). In Section 3 of the April 2, 2004 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 4, 5, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Agrawal* reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,080 to *Burt et al.* (hereafter, "*Burt*").

The Applicant respectfully asserts that neither the *Gulliford* reference nor the *Burt* reference overcomes the shortcomings of the *Agrawal* reference regarding the unique and novel limitations recited in Claim 1. The *Gulliford* reference purportedly introduces a telephone control system in which state machines respond to events based on an array and table which is a list linking events to responses. The *Burt* reference purportedly introduces a periodic ping message. However, the Examiner's assertions regarding the subject matter disclosed in the *Gulliford* reference and the *Burt* reference are irrelevant because neither the *Gulliford* reference nor the *Burt* reference discloses the unique and novel limitations described above in Claim 1.

This being the case, Claim 1 recites unique and novel limitations that are not disclosed, suggested, or even hinted at in the *Agrawal* reference, in the *Gulliford* reference, or in the *Burt* reference, or in any combination of the *Agrawal*, *Gulliford* and *Burt* references. Thus, Claim 1 presents patentable subject matter over the *Agrawal*, *Gulliford* and *Burt* references. Also, Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1 and contain all of the unique and novel limitations recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-8 also are patentable over the *Agrawal*, *Gulliford* and *Burt* references.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that independent Claims 9 and 17 contain limitations that are analogous to the unique and novel limitations recited in Claim 1. This being the case, independent Claims 9 and 17 present patentable subject matter over the *Agrawal*, *Gulliford* and *Burt* references. Finally, Claims 10-16, which depend from Claim 9, and Claims 18-20, which depend from Claim 17, contain all of the unique and novel limitations recited in Claims 9 and 17, respectively. Therefore, Claims 10-16 and 18-20 are patentable over the *Agrawal*, *Gulliford* and *Burt* references.

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SUMMARY


For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims and that this Application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,
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